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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 8, 2005. Claims 1-22 were pending in the present application. This Amendment amends claims 1, 12, 15, and 16, and does not add or cancel any claims, leaving pending in the application claims 1-22. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being lacking sufficient antecedent basis for each recited term. Claims 15 and 16 as amended should include proper antecedent basis for each recited term. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claims 15 and 16 be withdrawn.

II.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hershey* (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0002199). Applicants respectfully submit that Hershey does not disclose each element of these claims.

For example, Applicants' claim 1 as amended recites an integrated circuit comprising:

> **partially reconfigurable programmable circuit elements for alternately implementing a first circuit and a second circuit; and**
> a finite state machine,
> **wherein the finite state machine configures the partially reconfigurable programmable circuit elements to implement the first circuit** to detect boundaries between words in an input data stream,
> when the finite state machine determines the partially reconfigurable programmable circuit elements correctly indicate boundaries between frames in the input data stream, **the finite state machine overwrites at least a portion of the first circuit to implement the second circuit** to align the words in the input data stream based on the detected word boundaries and to determine when the word boundaries have changed, and
> when the finite state machine determines the word boundaries have changed, **the finite state machine overwrites at least a portion of the second circuit to implement the first circuit** to detect boundaries between words in the input data stream.

(emphasis added). Such limitations are not disclosed by *Hershey.*

Hershey discloses synchronizing and controlling multiplexed payloads over a telecommunications network (paragraph [0007]). Software can control the timing relationships

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between asynchronous payloads, maintaining these timing relationships during multiplexing, transporting, and de-multiplexing (paragraph [0019]). *Hershey* discloses the use of a synchronization, multiplexing, and control (SMC) circuit for synchronization (paragraphs [0039]-[0045]). *Hershey* does not, however, disclose partially reconfigurable programmable circuit elements for alternately implementing a first circuit and a second circuit, as recited in Applicants' claim 1, particularly where a finite state machine alternately implements a first circuit to detect boundaries between words in an input data stream and a second circuit to align the words in the input data stream based on the detected word boundaries and to determine when the word boundaries have changed. Further, *Hershey* does not disclose the finite station overwriting at least a portion of the first circuit to implement the second circuit when the finite state machine determines the partially reconfigurable programmable circuit elements correctly indicates boundaries between frames in the input data stream, and overwriting at least a portion of the second circuit to implement the first circuit when the finite state machine determines the word boundaries have changed.

As *Hershey* does not disclose or suggest these limitations, *Hershey* cannot anticipate Applicants' claim 1 or dependent claims 1-9. Claim 12 as amended recites limitations that similarly are not disclosed by *Hershey*, such that Applicants' claim 12 and dependent claims 13-20 cannot be anticipated by *Hershey*. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claims 1-9 and 12-20 be withdrawn.

III.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 10, 11, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Hershey* in view of *Denton* (US 6,567,413). Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1, and claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 12, which are not rendered obvious by *Hershey* for reasons including those discussed above. *Denton* does not make up for the deficiencies in Hershey with respect to these claims.

Denton teaches an optical networking module including optical, optical-electrical, and protocol processing components and control software (col. 2, lines 24-32). *Denton* is cited as teaching OIF SPI4 phase 2 input data stating the novelty of selecting SONET, SDH with OIF SPI4 phase

2 (OA p. 7). Even if *Denton* includes such teaching, this teaching would not make up for the deficiencies in *Hershey* with respect to these claims, as *Denton* fails to teach or suggest partially reconfigurable programmable circuit elements for alternately implementing a first circuit and a second circuit, such as is recited in Applicants' claim 1, particularly where a finite state machine alternately implements a first circuit to detect boundaries between words in an input data stream and a second circuit to align the words in the input data stream based on the detected word boundaries and to determine when the word boundaries have changed. Further, *Denton* does not teach or the finite station overwriting at least a portion of the first circuit to implement the second circuit when the finite state machine determines the partially reconfigurable programmable circuit elements correctly indicates boundaries between frames in the input data stream, and overwriting at least a portion of the second circuit to implement the first circuit when the finite state machine determines the word boundaries have changed.

As *Denton* does not teach or suggest these limitations, either alone or in combination with *Hershey*, these claims cannot be rendered obvious by *Hershey* and *Denton*. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claims 10, 11, 21, and 22 be withdrawn.

IV.   Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

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Appl. No. 10/669,012   PATENT
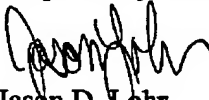Amdt. dated April 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2005

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this
Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an
early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of
this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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